



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

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**Linda McCulloch
Secretary of State**

To: Potential 2012 Write-In Candidate

From: Linda McCulloch, Secretary of State

Thank you for your inquiry about filing for office as a write-in candidate for the 2012 election cycle.

Please see below and attached information about filing as a write-in candidate.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Secretary of State, Elections and Government Services at (406) 444-5346 or soselections@mt.gov or visit our website at sos.mt.gov.

You may also wish to contact the Commissioner of Political Practices at (406) 444-2942 for campaign finance information.

Links: [Write-In Candidate Declaration of Intent and Oath](#)
[Information on Use of Pre-Printed Labels](#)
[2012 Candidate Calendar](#)
[Title 13 Election Laws](#)



Information for Write-In Candidates
Montana Secretary of State Linda McCulloch
Elections and Government Services
soselections@mt.gov • www.sos.mt.gov

◆ **Filing Deadlines** ([13-10-601](#), MCA)

- The declaration of intent must be filed with the Secretary of State's office as follows:
 - ✓ For the Primary Election, no later than 5 p.m. on **Friday, April 27, 2012**. The option to have a write-in vote counted on the primary ballot is only available for candidates for nonpartisan offices, or for candidates of parties qualified for the primary in Montana (see list at <http://sos.mt.gov/Elections/Parties>) that also have sufficient competitive races to require that a primary ballot be printed for the party.
 - ✓ For the General Election, no later than 5 p.m. on **Friday, September 28, 2012**. A write-in candidate who files a declaration of intent for a general election may not file with a partisan, nonpartisan, or independent designation.

◆ **Other Information**

- Except as provided in [13-10-201](#)(7), MCA, in order for votes to be counted for a write-in candidate, a write-in candidate must file a declaration of intent with the Secretary of State and any required filing fee, pursuant to [13-10-202](#), MCA. A write-in vote may be counted only if the write-in vote identifies an individual by any of the designations filed by the candidate pursuant to law.
- A candidate who files as an indigent candidate is not required to pay a filing fee, but is required to file petition signatures.
- For information about the use of pre-printed labels, please see <http://sos.mt.gov/Elections/Write-ins>.
- An individual who files for Governor must file with a Lieutenant Governor candidate.
- For presidential filing information, see <http://sos.mt.gov/Elections/Filing>.